SPORTS

Cowboys' Witten, Patriots' Brady will have new teams. **C1**

BUSINESS

S.A. firm develops transport pods to evacuate patients. **Chris Tomlinson, B1**

MYSA

Enjoy a whale of a meal for Lent with these 5 fish tacos. **D1**

San Antonio Express-News

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Stray thundershower: High 81, Low 68

CORONAVIRUS

Trump: Pour money into the economy

One thing the president wants to do is send checks directly to Americans

By Alan Rappeport, Emily Cochrane and Nicholas Fandos
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump called on Congress on Tuesday to quickly approve a sweeping economic stimulus package that would include sending checks directly to Americans within weeks.

"We want to go big," Trump said at a White House news conference, adding that he had instructed Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to introduce measures that would provide more immediate economic support over the payroll tax cut holiday that he had been promoting as the novel coronavirus outbreak hammers the economy.

Mnuchin told Republican senators later Tuesday that the administration wants Congress to infuse about $850 billion in additional stimulus to prop up the economy.

While Trump had signaled he wanted the payroll tax to be the centerpiece of that effort, it faced bipartisan opposition in Congress, and Mnuchin said time was of the essence.

"We're looking at sending checks to Americans immediately," Mnuchin said at the White House.

Later, at a lunch across from the Capitol, the Treasury secretary privately told Republican senators that he envisioned the direct payments covering two weeks of pay and said they could total $250 billion, according to two people familiar with the discussion who described it on the condition of anonymity.

The goal would be to get the checks out by the end of April, Mnuchin told the senators, with additional checks possible if the national emergency persists, the people said.

Mnuchin declined publicly to put a dollar figure on the direct payments, telling reporters only that, "it is a big number."

Earlier at the White House, he said the proposal would be targeted so it would not go to the highest

Payments continues on A6

Coronavirus at a glance

196,640	5,726	104	7,893	107	2
Confirmed cases worldwide	Confirmed in U.S.	Confirmed In Texas	Deaths worldwide	Deaths in U.S.	Deaths in Texas

125 evacuees now at Lackland

Source: WHO, CDC, Johns Hopkins University

Photos by Josie Norris / Staff photographer

A woman has no trouble maintaining social distance while dining at a River Walk restaurant.

Without crowds, tourists can actually see local attractions

By John MacCormack
STAFF WRITER

Kyle and Colleen Williams, Vermonters on vacation, found themselves stranded in Galveston on Friday night after their Caribbean cruise was abruptly canceled.

"We said, 'Let's go to San Antonio. See the Alamo.' So we rented a car and drove over," said Kyle, 63, a retired engineer.

Back then, almost a lifetime ago on the fast-moving timeline of the coronavirus, things still were bustling in Alamo Plaza and on the River Walk.

The Williamses got here in time to enjoy the sights and tastes from La Villita to the Pearl Brewery to the Tower of the Americas.

"We enjoyed the River Walk Saturday and Sunday nights. They had a dense crowd," Kyle said.

By Tuesday afternoon, San Antonio was a different place.

The Alamo was closed, along with two dozen other attractions, including some shops at Market Square, the Witte Museum and the Tejano Fan Festival.

For a city that claims to attract 39 million visitors a year, the dramatic drop in tourism has been a gut punch.

"This time of year would normally be very busy. It's Spring Break season. It's a bigger hurt than it would be at a different time of year," said David Gonzalez, director of communications for Visit SA, the city's tourism marketing arm.

The slowdown affects hotels and cultural attractions, but is especially onerous for small businesses, Gonzalez said.

"We're hopeful this will pass soon, and we're making plans to bring in strong visitation whenever it does," he said.

The handful of tourists still in

Tourists continues on A6

Seth Taylor, 8, leans against his mother, Shelly Taylor of Amarillo, as they make a visit to the Shrine of Texas Liberty. In a normal year, the city attracts 39 million visitors.

Inside

» *Campaigns infected.* **A2**
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For continuous updates, visit **expressnews.com/coronavirus**

Area schools extend closure 2 more weeks

By Ashley McBride and Krista Torralva
STAFF WRITERS

Launching a mass experiment in online learning, all of Bexar County's independent school districts, now in their second week of an extended Spring Break, announced Tuesday that they will keep campuses closed for two more weeks.

Those that now provide free curb-side meals will continue to do so.

Northside ISD, the county's largest, announced its students will return April 6 but in the meantime will begin at-home instruction Monday. Parents should expect updates Thursday about how to access the curriculum, it said.

North East, Edgewood, East Central, Harlandale, Alamo Heights, Judson, Southwest, Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City, Somerset, Southside, South San and San Antonio ISDs also announced they won't not reopen until April 6. By mid-afternoon they were followed by the local military installation school districts: Randolph Field, Fort Sam Houston and Lackland.

The superintendents have been conferring daily about the coronavirus and the decision was unsurprising, since the city of San Antonio has banned gatherings of 50 or more. Most su-

Schools continues on A7

Kin Man Hui / Staff photographer

Ashley Schneider tends to her work while her 9-year-old daughter, Lauren, watches a show.

Balancing work at home and kids is a job in itself

By Laura Garcia
STAFF WRITER

It seemed like a good idea at the time.

Air Force civilian attorney Rebecca Lively and her husband, scientist Alex Bokov, turned their home office into a nursery last year, ahead of the birth of their second son.

With the threat of the coronavirus forcing Lively to work remotely, they're now second-guessing their decision.

"We're not really set up to work at home, unfortunately," Lively said. "A lot of what I've done today is just trying to get my email to load."

They haven't yet set up a work station – Lively moves around the house with her laptop and Bokov still is going to the office in the evenings and on weekends – for now. And the couple's 8-year-old son is home from Lieck Elementary School on an extended break, a measure to help contain the virus' spread.

Many companies and public agencies, including NuStar Energy, Frost Bank, city-owned CPS Energy and the Texas Department of Transportation, are giving office workers the option of working from home during the

Work continues on A8

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